

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 10054 061913Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /050 W
-----036936 070215Z /70

R 061858Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1442
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 10054

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, GW, UR, PINT
SUBJECT: BREZHNEV VISIT TO FRG: INITIAL IMPRESSIONS OF
BREZHNEV'S HEALTH

REF: BONN 8384

1. SOVIET TV HAS OF COURSE CARRIED EXTENSIVE FILM OF
BREZHNEV'S ACTIVITIES IN THE FRG, INCLUDING THE ARRIVAL
CEREMONY AND COMPLETE COVERAGE OF BREZHNEV'S TOASTS AT THE
MAY 4 DINNER AND MAY 5 LUNCHEON. OUR TENTATIVE IMPRESSIONS,
BASED UPON THIS OBVIOUSLY SELECTIVE PICTURE OF HIS
PERFORMANCE SO FAR, ARE AS FOLLOWS:

--BREZHNEV'S PHYSICAL APPEARANCE THUS FAR STRIKES US AS
NORMAL FOR HIM; IN PARTICULAR, WE DO NOT DETECT ANY UNUSUAL
FACIAL SWELLING OR PUFFINESS;
--HIS PHYSICAL MOVEMENTS AT THE BONN-COLOGNE AIRPORT SEEMED
UP TO HIS RECENT PAR; SOVIET TV COVERAGE SINCE THEN HAS
SELDOM SHOWN HIM MOVING AROUND, AND DID NOT CARRY THE CON-
CLUSION OF THE PHOTO CEREMONY REPORTED IN PARAGRAPH THREE
OF REFTEL;
--HIS MAY 4 SPEAKING PERFORMANCE SEEMED ABOUT EQUAL TO HIS
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RELATIVELY GOOD PERFORMANCE AT THE KOMSOMOL CONGRESS
APRIL 25; WE THOUGHT HE DID LESS WELL IN DELIVERING HIS
MAY 5 TOAST; ON THAT OCCASION, HE SEEMED TO LOSE MENTAL
CONCENTRATION IN SEVERAL SPOTS, AND THE AUDIO OBVIOUSLY WAS
EDITED IN AT LEAST SIX INSTANCES, SUGGESTING THAT HE
SLURRED OR MISPRONOUNCED BADLY AT THOSE PLACES IN HIS
ADDRESS.

2. IT HAS BEEN BREZHNEV'S PRACTICE FOR SOME TIME HERE TO
READ FROM PREPARED TEXTS IN HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS, AND WE
WOULD NOT BE INCLINED TO ATTACH PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE TO
THHT FACET OF HIS PERFORMANCE IN THE FRG. TOON

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Message Attributes

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